

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

June 5, 2014

Transportation Funding Vote On August 5 Ballot

Central Office *by Linda Wilson Horn*

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

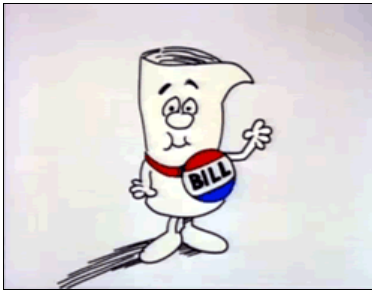
Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Last month, Governor Nixon announced that House Joint Resolution 68 (now Constitutional Amendment 7), along with four other constitutional amendments, would be placed on the August 5 ballot. Constitutional Amendment 7 proposes to amend the constitution to enact a temporary ¾-cent sales tax to fund transportation projects. All proceeds would go toward needed transportation improvements statewide.



Prior to the election, MoDOT is required to develop a project list outlining all of the funding priorities for each region for the proposed revenue increase. The list is a culmination of months of work by MoDOT with its local planning agencies and transportation partners, and is based on the needs outlined in last year's long range transportation plan. All of our energy and focus must be on developing that list and making sure it represents the projects that will improve safety, create jobs, meet our transportation partners' expectations, and satisfy the needs identified by Missourians through our long range plan.

The general public and transportation stakeholders are invited to attend one of the June open house meetings and provide feedback on these project lists. MoDOT engineers and local transportation planning partners will be available to answer any questions about the projects.

The complete list of public meetings and the draft project list will be available at noon on June 13 at www.modot.org/movingforward. Public feedback on the list can be made through the website during the open public comment period from June 13 through June 20.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission will consider all public comments and approve the project list at its June 25 meeting. Once the Commission approves the list, it will be shared with the public and Missourians will be able to clearly see what they will get for their investment.

Constitutional Amendment 7 is a critical effort for transportation in Missouri, and these are exciting times for the future of transportation, prosperity and safety in our state.

Three Things You Can Tell Your Neighbor

Between now and the Aug. 5 election on transportation funding, as a MoDOT employee you have the opportunity to educate your neighbors, family and friends on Constitutional Amendment 7, the ballot initiative that will designate a ¾ cent sales tax to fund transportation.

While it is not our job to advocate for the amendment, or tell people how to vote, we do have a responsibility to help people understand the need for additional transportation funding and the benefits it provides.

Here's what you need to know about Constitutional [Amendment 7](#):

- It's a ¾-cent sales tax (not charged on food, prescription medicine or gasoline).
- The tax is temporary, for 10 years.
- It generates about \$540 million per year.
- It can be used for any transportation purpose.
- No tolls or fuel tax increase can take place during the 10-year period.

What Role Can Employees Play?

Employees need to know the basics listed above, and be willing to help the people you come in contact with understand it. As the department prepares to share the project list required by the amendment, it's our job to show how that list will impact the safety of Missourians, our infrastructure and the economy of the state.

Three Things You Can Tell Your Neighbor

1. Everyone benefits from transportation.
2. Our roads and bridges are deteriorating. We can't keep up with the needs.
3. When we make improvement to our roads and bridges we save lives with the things we do.

The best way to be prepared is to be informed. Watch for more information coming soon, and ask your supervisor if you have questions. Make sure to check MoDOT Now every day, and read the upcoming editions of Connections.

Team Talk

by Roberta Broecker

Archives

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In August, Missourians will be asked to make a decision at the polls about transportation funding. Regardless of your politics, it's important for everyone to cast their vote. Voting is both a right and an obligation. It is one of the freedoms that our armed forces have fought, and sometimes died, to protect and preserve. Many MoDOT employees are veterans or still serve in the military. You probably know a MoDOT employee who has been on active duty while you've been a part of Team MoDOT. When we go out and vote, we honor the service of our coworkers and all military personnel.

If you are not a registered voter, it's an easy process and there are several options for registration. The Missouri Secretary of State's website offers all the information you need to register and to vote - <http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/register.aspx>.

Registration Guidelines

- You must be 17 ½ years of age to register, 18 years of age to vote.
- You must be a US Citizen and a Missouri resident.
- Your voter registration form must be postmarked by the 4th Wednesday before the election. (That's July 9 for the August election.)

Registration Options:

- Completing the voter registration application online,
- Printing the application from the Secretary of State's website and mailing,
- Requesting an application be mailed to you using the Secretary of State's website or by calling 1-800-669-8683, or
- Registering in person at your local county clerk's office. (Applications are also available at the Department of Motor Vehicles office or any other state agency providing service to the public.)

If you are a registered voter and can't make it to the polls on Aug. 5, you can still vote by casting an absentee ballot, which you can pick up from your local county clerk's office. Absentee voting begins six weeks prior to the election. The Secretary of State's website provides all the details on absentee voting requirements, or you can call the toll-free number, or call your local county clerk's office for information.

If you think you are a registered voter, but aren't sure you are registered in the right county, or can't remember the location where you vote, that information can also be found on the website, by calling the toll-free number or by calling your county clerk's office.

And if you're wondering if this really works, I'll tell you that I'm a bit of a skeptic, and I did too. So I went to the Secretary of State's website and clicked on the link **WHERE DO I VOTE**, which you'll see on the left side of the page when you click on the link above. I was able to quickly verify that I am a registered voter in Cole County, and that when we're six weeks out from the election, I can go back and verify my polling place. It was easy and fast!



State Employee Recognition Week Recap

Missouri's annual State Employee Recognition Week took place last month. As part of the week's activities, a special event was held on the Capitol lawn in Jefferson City. The ceremony included one of MoDOT's own, Tom Wilkerson, signing God Bless America. Various state agencies, including MoDOT, had informational tents set up on the lawn.

Here are just a few pictures of the event. See all photos on MoDOT's flickr site - [Employee Recognition](#), and watch a video of Tom's performance - [Tom Wilkerson](#).



The colors were presented on the Capitol steps before the singing of the national anthem at the State Employee Recognition Day.



Senior GIS Specialist Thomas Wilkerson from Transportation Planning sang "God Bless America" at the State Employee Recognition Day ceremony. Click above to watch a video of the performance.



Nate Muenks and Tom Collins from the Environmental Section and Linda Wilson Horn from Customer Relations handed out maps and Amtrak schedules at the MoDOT booth for State Employee Recognition Day.



A Jefferson City dancing school provided music and dancing while state employees strolled the Capitol grounds visiting booths with information and products.

New Enhanced Crossings Help Pedestrians Safely Get Across Busy Roads

by Linda Wilson Horn

MoDOT is using a new enhanced pedestrian crossing system at two locations in Missouri. The new crossings make it easier for pedestrians to safely get across busy roads at locations that are not at signalized intersections. It also minimizes traffic delays, because it only operates when a pedestrian activates it.

The first enhanced pedestrian crossing in Missouri was installed at a high school in Neosho in May 2013. The second became operational in May 2014 in St. Louis at a busy social services facility. Both locations had heavy pedestrians crossing the street at mid block/non signalized locations.

To drivers, the enhanced pedestrian crossing includes a triangular arrangement of lights. When a pedestrian presses the walk button, a flashing yellow appears, alerting drivers that someone wants to cross. The flashing yellow will then turn a solid yellow to warn drivers to slow down and get ready to stop.

Next, two red lights will be displayed, requiring cars to stop. After a few seconds, the red lights will alternately flash indicating that drivers may proceed after stopping IF there are no pedestrians in their lane.

When pedestrians are not present, the lights will not be on and drivers can proceed without stopping. Check out the diagram on the website link below describing the sequence seen by the motorists and the corresponding messages seen by the pedestrians - <http://www.modot.org/EnhancedPedestrianCrossings.htm>.



Pedestrians cross Route D (Page Avenue) in St. Louis using the new enhanced pedestrian crossing. Photo by Shaunda White.

Use of this enhanced pedestrian crossing is common in Europe and is technically referred to as HAWK - (High-intensity Activated Cross Walk). Since its introduction in the United States, studies have shown a decrease in pedestrian-related accidents.

LiDAR Innovation Keeps Bridges and Workers Safe

by Jim Dickson



Keeping accurate records of vertical clearances on bridges is an important part of getting large trucks safely to their destinations. However, the job of collecting that information often puts MoDOT workers in harm's way. It's also an expensive process involving multiple employees and a series of protection vehicles. Fortunately, St. Louis District Bridge Engineer Mark Croarkin has found a solution that gets the job done faster, cheaper and safer.

The St. Louis District has contracted with a private company to use a LiDAR equipped vehicle to collect vertical clearance information on its bridges for an average cost of \$93 per bridge. In addition to keeping the signing correct on the bridges, Croarkin said the information also is used by Motor Carrier Services staff to route over dimension loads and by project planners and designers to more accurately guide pavement projects.

Listen to the full story at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?>

Watch St. Louis District Bridge Engineer Mark Croarkin talk about the value of using LiDAR equipped vehicles to collect vertical clearance data.

v=neXnN9JiY98&list=UUdUIbgRs-G8x2H-HdMQtNkg

Quarterly Tracker Meeting Focuses on Safety, Roads and Bridges

by Holly Dentner

MoDOT employees from across the state gathered in Jefferson City on May 21 to discuss the latest edition of Tracker. MoDOT's performance management document tracks our progress on 58 measures, and this quarter the team also discussed the condition of Missouri's roads and bridges as part of the Tracker Focal Point.

Director Dave Nichols opened the meeting by talking about the passage of House Joint Resolution 68, which will ask voters to decide if a ¾ cent sales tax will be designated for transportation funding for the next 10 years.

"This opportunity is transformational for MoDOT, for the Commission, and for Missouri," said Nichols. "Our focus now must be on completing the list of projects that will show Missourians how transportation can improve safety and create jobs."

Nichols also passed on some recognition the department received for its winter operations efforts.

"I know it was a rough winter for us," said Nichols. "But when I went over to the capitol, the legislators told me how impressed they were with our efforts, and they know how hard we worked."

Some other highlights from the Tracker meeting:

MoDOT's partner satisfaction remains high. In fact, the data this year showed a significant jump in the "very satisfied" category.

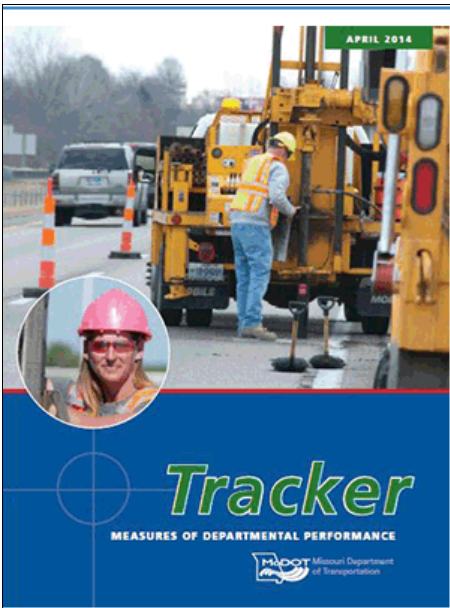
Recycling saves money for MoDOT and Missouri. For every ton of asphalt used, 26 percent is recycled material. The end result of MoDOT's recycling efforts showed a \$30 million savings in 2013, which is money that can be directed back into taking care of the system.

MoDOT does well with incident management, but we can do better. Last quarter, the average time to clear an interstate incident was 28.3 minutes. Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger complimented the team on that timeframe, but challenged everyone to look for ways to prevent the kinds of incidents that block the interstate for long periods - especially if those incidents keep occurring in the same places.

Forty percent of this quarter's recordable incidents involved slips, trips, and falls, many related to the winter weather. The only acceptable employee injury number is zero. Director Nichols reminded everyone that these incidents occur "because we tolerate them." He asked for everyone's commitment to do everything they can to prevent injury and have those tough conversations with employees who aren't on board.

[Click here to read this quarter's Tracker.](#)

For the Tracker supplement and this quarter's Focal Point, use this [SharePoint link](#). (Note - the SharePoint link will only work for employees on the MoDOT network.)



Fatality Update



What's Happening

[Chat With The Chief](#)



Remember to check out Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger’s blog post. This week Assistant Chief Engineer Kathy Harvey is sharing her experience riding along with a sweeping crew during a nighttime operation in St. Louis. [Chat with the Chief.](#)



Snooper Truck Ride-Along

Don't miss the article on the Bridge Division's snooper truck. See photos and video footage of MoDOT's snooper truck in action - [Central Office page.](#)



EAC Minutes Available

Minutes from the Employee Advisory Council's April meeting have been posted on the EAC website at http://wwwwi/intranet/eac/documents/April_2014.pdf (*link works for employees only*).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the EAC at eac@modot.mo.gov.



June is Migraine and Headache Awareness Month

Millions of Americans suffer from migraines or other forms of chronic headache. Check out this month’s wellness newsletter from Coventry and see what you can do to help prevent and treat migraines and headaches – [Central Office page in Connections.](#)

Highway to Better Health Incentive Pilot Program

A new incentive package from Coventry is designed to support employee’s efforts to improved health and wellness. By participating in four specific activities, employees can be eligible for a \$50 gift card and enter a drawing for a flat screen TV. Read more about this new program on the [Central Office page in Connections.](#)

June Anniversaries

35 Years

Richard Lee Koll - SW
Ralph M. Rankin – CO

30 Years

Jeffery R. Peters - NW
Donald Ray Payne - CD
Susan M. Ball - CD
Jeffrey S. Fluchel - SL
David Brian Heck - SL
Robert Ward Follett - SL
Terry Allen Bolton - CO
James E. Smith - CO
Charles R. Pursley - CO
Timothy Allan Jackson – CO

25 Years

Lynelle Skouby Luther - KC
Jeffery S. Madsen - CD
Benjamin H. Wharton - CD
Katherine B. Anderson - SL
Helen L. Brumitt - SW
Robert E. Declue - SE
Brent S. Halford - SE

15 Years

Jason Dee Russell - NW
Jared E. Noland - NW
Robert W. Rother - NW
John A. Neal - NW
Kevin Ray Novak - NW
Robert D. Fleak - NE
Lee Earl Jones - NE
Keith A. Golian - NE
Craig A. Holdeman - KC
Andrew U. McCauley - KC
Nidal Ahmen Alkhaldi - KC
Stuart Gregory Dodd - KC
Daniel E. Schulte - CD
Harold R. Baumgartner - CD
Kent J. Cunningham - CD
Jerome Donald George - CD
Jason D. Luttrell - CD
Robert Dale Lehmann - SW
Eddie Milton Smith - SW
Jennifer Annette Smith - SW
Levi Michael Jones - SW
Timothy C. Pickett - SE
Eric W. Kaut - SE

10 Years Continued

Randall Lee McDaniel - SW
Lyle David Weiser - SW
Jason D. Lance - SE
Melissa D. Rose - SE
Steven D. Crewse - SE
David A. Ladyman - SE
Timothy M. Sutton - SE
Tracy Lee Currey - SE
James M. Buschmann - SE
Kenneth L. McCameron - SE
James Michael Hargrove - SE
David M. Gregg - CO
Michelle M. Luebbert – CO

5 Years

Jerad L. Vandiver - NW
Andrew R. Voltmer - NW
Kennth D. Thomas - NW
Aaron B. Hugenberg - NE
Sandra Lee Jump - NE
Kyle William Frye - KC
James Rhea Martin - KC
Alejandro Martinez - KC

Tommy R. Hodges - SE
William Lee Freeman - SE
Jimmy Loren Simpson - SE
Michael D. Harms - CO
David A. Stevenson - CO
Rickie Jones - CO
Kathy A. Shikles - CO

20 Years

Bryce M. Anderson - NW
Trevor W. Leeper - NW
Michael John Laks - NE
James Arthur Templer - KC
Perry Joseph Allen - KC
Rodney C. Layman - KC
William Robert Chappell - KC
Carl J. Porting - CD
Dennis P. Hees - CD
Stacy R. Summa - CD
Gregory Todd Kensinger - SW
Bruce Cameron Pettus - SW
Jeffrey L. Robertson - SW
David L. Drake - SW
Matthew D. Gayman - SW
Craig D. Compas - SE
Keith L. Smith - CO
Gina M. Berhorst - CO

Randy Wayne Henry - SE
Charles Glen Damron - SE
Raymond J. Pruett - SE
Debra Lynn Seabaugh - SE
John Patrick Donahue - CO
Michael J. Meyer - CO
Jennifer Diane Nanneman - CO
Monica Helen Duncan - CO
Robert B. Reeser - CO

10 Years

Roger W. Walker - NE
Donald Edward Spencer - KC
Ricky G. White - KC
Nancy Anne Powell - KC
David C. Roop - CD
Victor K. Engelage - CD
Christopher L. Draffen - CD
Staci Pickett - CD
Nathan H. Brown - CD
William Kenneth Miller - SL
Lance Doyle Rash - SW
Jamie Alan Routh - SW
Bretney A. Taylor - SW

James Joseph Pflum - KC
Noel G. Twenter - KC
John P. Dickinson - CD
Gabriel Collin Horstmann - CD
Jeffery P. Johnson - CD
Kevin Shane Davis - SL
Eric T. Kopinski - SL
Matthew P. Seggerman - SL
Jonathan Michael Silver - SL
Rodney Dujuan Herd - SL
Cortez R. Nelson - SL
Kevin T. Schuette - SL
Erin K. Van Roekel - SW
Stephen J. Smith - SW
Matthew Lee Hughes - SW
Kenneth Ray Long - SW
Shannon M. Kellner - SW
Reggie Willard Null - SE
Gregory C. Evers - CO

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

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Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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Central Office

Inspectors Snoop Under Bridges to Check Conditions

Patrick Wood

An under bridge inspection unit, also known as a snoop truck, is an odd looking vehicle that causes many who see it to do a bit of a double take. On May 27, there were many spectators at Table Rock Lake in Branson, MO that did just that. While



MoDOT bridge inspection crew gives Army Corps of Engineers a lift in an under bridge inspection unit allowing them to inspect the dam at Table Rock Lake in Branson, MO.



Senior Bridge Maintenance Worker Jesse Elseman controls the snoop arm allowing Army Corps of Engineers to inspect the Table Rock Dam in Branson, MO.

According to the bridge inspection crew, it is not uncommon to close up to two bridges a month in need of immediate repairs. The bridge deterioration can be caused by numerous things. It can be from the salt and abrasives added during winter to help keep ice off the bridges that cannot be reached to wash away, or simply from fatigue over time caused by heavy trucks passing over it.

In Missouri, there are more than 10,400 state bridges. A total of 208 bridges are considered “major” meaning they exceed 1,000 feet in length. Currently 47 of those major bridges are considered

they were watching from the lake front, dam observatory and occasionally from idling boats, a four-man MoDOT crew was assisting the Army Corps of Engineers in the inspection of the dam.

The under bridge inspection unit on location in Branson that day is one of only three in the state. With so few units statewide, each truck and crew covers a large portion of Missouri and its bridges. All three crews are part of the Bridge Management Section of the Bridge Division.

The trucks and the crews that operate them are an invaluable asset when it comes to making sure the bridges of Missouri are safe for motorists. Every bridge in Missouri is inspected regularly for safety. If a disaster happens, a bridge must be inspected immediately before motorists will be allowed to drive on it for their safety.

In order for the crew to inspect under the bridge, the snoop truck can extend its arm allowing the operator to go off the side of the bridge. A counter weight on the truck prevents the unit from tipping over. The arm is then maneuvered into position underneath the bridge for inspection. The truck’s arm can lower itself and reach a total of 62 feet across the width of a bridge for the inspector to check for cracks, damage and deterioration.

If a crack is found, it is measured and evaluated to make sure it is not compromising the integrity of the bridge. Not all cracks are equal. While bridges will have cracks, the crew is looking for cracks in areas of stress, or cracks that show growth from a previous inspection. They also are testing the thickness of the steel in areas of section loss caused by rust to make sure it is still in good condition.



MoDOT provides a lending hand to the Army Corps of

to be in poor condition while an additional 97 are only considered to be in fair condition. Overall a total of 6,598 bridges are in fair to poor condition.

Engineers at Table Rock Lake in Branson, MO. The MoDOT bridge inspection crew gave the Corps a lift in one of MoDOT's under bridge inspection units allowing them to inspect dam. Click above to view a video that gives a first person view of what a ride in an under bridge inspection unit to inspect underneath bridges looks like. Enjoy the ride!

Health and Wellness



June is Migraine and Headache Awareness Month

Millions of Americans suffer from migraines or other forms of chronic headache.

Click on the flier to check out this month's wellness newsletter from Coventry and see what you can do help prevent and treat migraines and headaches.



Highway to Better Health Incentive Pilot Program

A new incentive package from Coventry is designed to support employee's efforts to improved health and wellness. By participating in four specific activities, employees can be eligible for a \$50 gift card and enter a drawing for a flat screen TV.

Click on the flier for details about this new program.

Central Office Happenings

CO Celebrates State Employee Recognition Week

Several central office divisions celebrated state employee recognition week. Here are just a few pictures of the week's activities.



Maintenance division staff members Tim Chojnacki and Todd Miller (left to right) participated in Throwback Thursday.



Motor Carrier Services held Wellness Wednesday, encouraging staff to take a walk outside, hoola-hoop, or play Wii dance/sports on a break. Above, Debbie Bradshaw shows off her high bowling score of 221.



Customer Relations staff (left to right) Karen Miller, Caitlin Smith, Janette Vomund and Patrick Wood, had fun with Throwback Thursday. Janette was the overall winner, with Caitlin following a close second. Both made their costumes.



Annual Youth Transportation Conference

It's time to enroll in the Youth Transportation Conference. Students in grades 9 through 12 for the 2014-15 school year are eligible to attend.

The cost is free, so click on the flyer for more details.



Mee Zone Event

Your Financial Game Plan

By Vivian Mason

June 24 - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
CO Human Resources Training Room B
601 West Main, Jefferson City
(Also available via video conference)

Ms. Mason will be discussing personal finances and how to achieve financial freedom. This program uses a sports metaphor to walk through the stats related to financial management such as net worth, credit reports and credit scores. It also provides information financial mistakes that cause you to spend more than you have.

Participants will learn how to score financially with financial actions that really count.

Sign up through the [LMS Student Center](#) (active employees only).

Questions?
Kristen Bagwill
Office: (573) 751-3941
Email: Kristen.Bagwill@modot.mo.gov



Central Office and Central District Take a Child to Work Day

June 19 - 7:30 a.m.
Central District Building

Click links below for information:
[Child to Work Day Detail and Schedule](#)
[Registration Survey](#)
[Central District First Floor Map](#)
[Central District Parking Lot Map](#)

You can also register for the event by clicking on this link
- <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TACTW2014>.

Questions?
Adam Hoffman
Equal Opportunity & Diversity Division
(573)526-5611



State Employee Blood Drive

Sponsored by the American Red Cross

June 17 and 18 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Truman Building, 4th Floor
June 20 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - St. Joseph's Cathedral Undercroft
June 24 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Truman Building 4th Floor

All donors will receive a St. Louis Cardinals blood drive T-shirt (while supply lasts).

Please bring a photo ID with you.

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Bikes, Birds and Buckle Up!

The Northwest District has been busy with community events, seat belt checks and taking in some local wildlife.

While a couple of our district office employees ride their bike to work on a regular basis, as weather allows, they had several others join them recently. On Friday, May 16, seven district office employees participated in the St. Joseph Metropolitan Planning Organization's Bike to Work Day 2014. This was the 6th annual Bike to Work Day sponsored by the MPO. Each registered participant received a t-shirt and was entered to win prizes as well as join all city-wide participants at an after-work awards ceremony.

On May 28, Senior Customer Service Representative Lisa Kellison started work extra early as she joined Ray Staggs, a member of the Northwest Region Coalition for Roadway Safety and an employee of Heartland Hospital, at the Heartland campus for their early morning shift change. A seatbelt check was conducted at several entrances to the campus and both employees and visitors were checked for safety belts.

Of the 688 drivers and passengers observed during the seatbelt check, 70 percent were belted and 30 percent were unbelted. This is below the Missouri average of 79 percent seat belt usage and far below the national average of 85 percent. A new program is being developed to target businesses, similar to the Battle of the Belt program for teens, to try to improve these numbers at all businesses around the Northwest District.

Finally, a bit of wildlife came to roost, literally, at the district office. A mother robin made her nest on the fire escape at the district office building. Facilities staff were careful not to disturb the nest as the three eggs finally hatched into nestlings. Many employees from the design and right of way departments kept a watchful eye on the nest from a second-floor window as the babies grew. Recently, as all young ones do, one bird decided to leave the nest and tested its wings hopping from a first floor window sill to the bushes below. All of the little ones have now flown away and the nest has been removed. Everyone will keep an eye out next spring to see if the mother robin returns.



Several employees parked their bicycles at the bike rack in front of the district office for Bike To Work Day 2014. Not all bikes were kept at the rack, though. Some employees chose to keep their bikes at their desk.



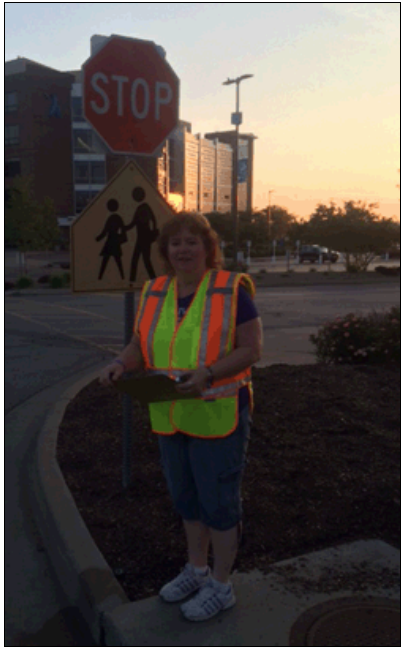
Senior Highway Designer Mike Mooney (in orange) looks on as Senior Highway Designer Jack Smith shows his bike to District Engineer Don Wichern.



Each participating organization could submit a group photo to be entered in a contest for prizes from businesses around St. Joseph. Above is the photo of all seven Bike To Work 2014 participants.



After the photo, Senior Highway Designer Joyce Reynolds rode her recumbent bicycle up the steep hill between parking lots.



It was very early when Senior Customer Service Representative Lisa Kellison joined Heartland Hospital staff to conduct a seat belt check of their employees and guests during a shift change.



Kellison and Heartland's Performance Improvement Patient Safety Coordinator Ray Staggs, a member of the Northwest Region Coalition for Roadway Safety, joined forces to conduct a seat belt check during shift change at several entrances to the Heartland Hospital campus.



A mother robin built her nest on the fire escape at the district office this spring. Pictured are only two of the three nestlings, yet they take up the entire nest!



The third nestling decided to venture out of the nest and test his wings. He landed on a first floor window sill and then eventually made his way to the bushes below, all under the watchful eyes of the mother robin.

For more info

Marcia Johnson
Customer Relations Specialist
Northwest District
816.387.2495
Marcia.Johnson@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class

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Northeast District

Northeast Employees Given the Distinction of Honorary Troopers



Tim Glasgow (left) and Arney Carroll (right), from the Wayland maintenance facility, were given the distinction of Honorary Trooper by the Missouri State Highway Patrol for their bravery and quick response in saving two motorists. (Article by Sgt. Brent Bernhardt)

On May 21, 2014, MoDOT employees Timothy Glasgow of Canton and Arney Carroll of Kahoka, were presented honorary trooper certificates for their valiant efforts in extricating and potentially saving the lives of two traffic crash victims on U.S. 61, in Clark County.

On Feb. 21, 2014, Corporal Doug Seigfried was called to the scene of an injury traffic crash on U.S. Highway 61, south of Route C in Clark County. Upon his arrival, he was able to determine a pickup truck towing a cargo trailer had lost control and spun around on the ice covered roadway and was struck by a semi-truck. After the initial impact, the semi-truck traveled off the left side of the roadway and overturned in the median.

Shortly after the vehicles came to rest, a MoDOT truck occupied by Tim and Arney, who had witnessed the crash, stopped to render aid to the two occupants of the pickup truck. It quickly became apparent to them that the driver of the pickup truck was pinned in the driver's seat of the vehicle.

While attempting to free the driver, the front of the pickup caught on fire. Glasgow quickly retrieved a fire extinguisher from his MODOT truck and was able to extinguish the flames. A short time later they were able to free both of the occupants from the pickup so they could safely be treated by responding medical personnel. Both occupants received moderate injuries and were transported to Blessing Hospital in Quincy, Illinois. There is no doubt their bravery and quick actions went above and beyond their required duty, and prevented further injuries to the occupants.

Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety Holds Meeting with Potential Partners

The Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety held it's quarterly meeting on Wednesday, May 28, in Kirksville. Local law enforcement and representatives from other agencies attended to listen to presentations about the goals and activities of the Coalition and discuss roadway safety.

Statistics regarding traffic crashes and fatalities within the last quarter were reviewed. Those in attendance also examined improvements that are made to the roads to keep motorists safe.

The Coalition is planning to hold their meetings



The Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety held it's quarterly meeting in Kirksville. Pictured is Brian Untiedt, Co-Facilitator for the Coalition, speaking to area law enforcement and community members about traffic crashes and fatalities.

at various cities around the district. The goal is to allow local law enforcement and community members to attend and discuss the needs in the area and what the Coalition has to offer.

Around the District...



Work is ahead of schedule at Hopewell Hill. As the contractor continues excavating through rock during the next week or two, they will begin hauling fill material to the northern portion of the project. This work should continue to take place off the highway. While the original timeline had an 18-day closure to complete the road beginning on July 29, the contractor believes if weather and ground conditions hold out, the closure period could take as little as 12 to 14 days, and begin in mid-July.



Crews in the southern area recently repaired a large hole at the Cuivre River Bridge on Route H, in Lincoln County.



The Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety held an Arrive Alive night at the Hannibal Caveman baseball game on May 30. All who attended received a free t-shirt and foam bat. Pictured handing out goodies is Hannah Bogue, an outreach coordinator for the Coalition.

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Bi-State Collaboration Helps Set Priorities for Transportation Future

Transportation committee members from both Kansas and Missouri came together in May for a special meeting. It was all part of the Public Meetings Transportation Outlook 2040, held at the Sylvester Powell Community Center in Mission, Ks.

Transportation representatives from both states discussed future transportation projects for the region and how its impact will be felt in years to come.

The workshop serves as a blueprint for managing the region's transportation system and helps identify what improvements are needed for the next three decades.

Representatives from various counties in Missouri and Kansas broke into small groups for a designated time period to determine which road projects should receive top priority and at what cost and how it should be funded.

Several members of MoDOT were in attendance. Members offered their insight on key projects happening today and how they'll shape the landscape for the future.

The workshop was held by the Mid-America Regional Council. MARC has served the Greater Kansas City area for more than 40 years as a planning organization. Click here to learn more [about MARC and the transportation planning process](#).



Kansas City District Welcomes Summer Interns

Every summer a group of fresh faces eager to learn more about their field joins the staff at MoDOT for a hands-on intern experience.

This week, the 2014 interns attended a welcome social, which was an opportunity to meet the district's management team. It was also an opportunity for the interns to come together to build relationships with their mentors and peers. They also played Jeopardy to introduce them to a variety of trivia about MoDOT.



The program consists of 20 student interns from Construction and Materials, Design, Right of Way, General Services and Traffic.

Innovative Project Makes Progress Behind the Scenes

This week some important work progressed on a major bridge project, and the traveling public probably didn't know. Underneath the Manchester Bridge on westbound I-70, crews started pouring three columns at bent 17 (part of the bridge substructure) that will take roughly 13 cubic yards of concrete each.

So far, the team has completed the substructure on 12 out of 36 bents. That’s 4828 cubic yards of concrete, out of approximately 21,000 cubic yard total they will use.

Next week, they begin setting girders on the westbound bridge, which includes the longest concrete prestressed girders in the state at approximately 165’ long.

This project is very innovative as it will have little-to-no impact on the traveling public as the team completely replaces this aging bridge. The new bridge will rise up next to existing lanes, traffic will switch to new pavement and the old bridge will be removed.

I-70 is one of the most heavily traveled corridors through the city, but the project team committed to zero total closures of I-70, zero lane closures during peak periods, zero reduction in lane widths or speeds through the work zones -- something almost unheard of for a major bridge replacement.

The current I-70 bridges were built in the late 1950s, among the earliest pieces of interstate construction in western Missouri. You can learn more [about this project on our website](#), and check out the [progress on the project webcam](#).



For more info

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Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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Regional Prioritization Meeting Held

Representatives from five area planning partners - the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), the Columbia Area Transportation Study Organization (CATSO), the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission, the Lake of the Ozarks Regional Planning Commission, and the Meramec Regional Planning Commission - met with Central District officials on May 27th and again on June 4 for the regions to prioritize the area transportation needs.

A final list of local priority projects that could be funded should the 3/4-cent sales tax pass on Aug. 5 will be available to the public on June 13.



Briefing Informs Public of Traffic Impacts

A briefing to inform residents of Jefferson City on how MoDOT will handle traffic management during work on the well-traveled Whitton Expressway was held on May 29th at Immaculate Conception Church.

During the meeting Central District representatives presented a PowerPoint presentation explaining the phases of construction, as well as permanent and temporary closures and detours.

The proposed improvements to the Expressway include a new interchange at U.S. Route 50 and Lafayette Street and adding a lane in each direction from Monroe Street to Lafayette Street and from Lafayette to Clark Avenue. Five bridges along the corridor will be replaced, and one will be rehabilitated. The project is planned for late 2014.





Debbie Redel (with trophy) won the 2014 Tricycle Cup during State Employee Recognition Week at the Central District Offices. Debbie raced past eight other employees that were entered in the oversized tricycle contest. Also pictured in the photo are (from left to right) Buckle Bear, Litter Bug, Scott Smith and Kelly Wilson.



Customer Service Representative Janis Geick hands out ice cream cups to Sherry Backes (left) and Karyn Veltrop (right) during State Employee Recognition Week. The ice cream cups were for completing a mile walk during a break to encourage healthy lifestyles and activities.



Central Office and Central District Take a Child to Work Day

June 19 - 7:30 a.m.
Central District Building

Click the links below for more information:

[Work Day Details and Schedule](#)

[Registration Survey](#)
[Central District Building First Floor Map](#)

[Central District Parking Lot Map](#)

You can also register for the event [HERE](#).

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St. Louis District Spring Meetings

by Shaunda White

Being the last district in the state to hold spring meetings, St. Louis employees gathered on May 22 to celebrate district achievements. Along with project award acknowledgements, the meetings covered upcoming PPE changes, improving employee morale and even managed to have a few fun intervals for employees in between presentations.

Some of the awards that were highlighted this year included:

Award	Project/Group/Employee
National Value Engineering	Mississippi River Bridge
What’s Right with the Region	Poplar Street Bridge
Governor’s Award for Quality & Productivity	Customer Service Statewide
Certificate of Appreciation (MSHP)	Larry McFadden
2013 Woman of the Year Award	Becky Allmeroth
Show-Me Heroes Award	St. Louis District
Proclamation – Show-Me Heroes Supporter	St. Louis District
Engineering Excellence Competition	Route 141 Improvements
Engineering Excellence Competition	Gateway Guide Regional Mobility Report
Certificate of Appreciation- Food Outreach	St. Louis District

Willing employees also had the opportunity to participate in minute-to-win it sessions in between award acknowledgements.



District employees compete against each other in a minute-to-win break at the spring meeting.

Chief Engineer, Ed Hassinger, also attended the meetings. He emphasized the importance of providing excellent customer service, maintaining our roads and bridges, and keeping ourselves and customers safe.

This year the spring meetings for the entire St. Louis district were held in one day. There was a morning presentation and an afternoon presentation, each lasting two hours.

At the end of the meetings, each employee was presented with a ‘Thank You’ letter signed by St. Louis administration. The letter was accompanied by a One Team coin to express their gratitude for the success of the team’s efforts during the past abnormal winter season.



Ed Hassinger speaks at the district spring meeting to express the importance of safety.



District Engineer, Greg Horn, passes out One Team coins as a token of appreciation to each employee at the end of the spring meeting.

St. Louis Construction Inspector Earns Safety Recognition for March

by Shaunda White

Luke Chamberlin, a construction inspector, earned safety employee of the month recognition because of his commitment to safety by ensuring the public is safe even in their homes.

Earlier in the year, Chamberlin was traveling on I-70 in the St. Louis area on a very windy night. From a distance, he noticed some smoke ahead on the side of the highway and presumed it was a car fire. He quickly pulled over, phoned customer service to contact the fire department, turned on his strobe lights and applied his PPE. He then realized that it was not a car on fire, but a wild fire that was burning a path towards a house.

Without hesitation, Chamberlin jumped out of his vehicle and stomped out the small fires before they reached any personal property. A few moments later, firefighters arrived on the scene.

Chamberlin was nominated for the recognition by Kristi Coppinger, a St. Louis safety officer.

“Without Luke’s effort to care enough about stomping out the little fires, the fire could have potentially gotten out of hand and caused serious damage or injuries. His dedication to safety makes him very deserving of this recognition,” said Coppinger.



Luke Chamberlin (center) was acknowledged at the SL staff meeting in May for his dedication to safety. He is featured with Lisa Lamons (left) safety & health manager and Greg Horn (right) district engineer.

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Comments & Suggestions

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Southwest District at Work



VOLUNTEERS – District Office Maintenance Superintendent Tim Bundgard and Senior Financial Services Technician Helen Brumitt along with 16 Southwest District co-workers joined other community volunteers in placing flags at headstones at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Springfield before Memorial Day. (Photo/Becky Baltz)



SMOOTHING THE RIDE – Joplin Maintenance Workers Wendell Russell (left), Ray Lovatt (center) and Crew Leader Lonnie Jordan make repairs to a bridge deck on I-44 in Lawrence County. (Photo/David Mitchell)



TESTING – Joplin Construction Inspector Ryan Dingman tests concrete to be used in construction of a roundabout at Route 43 & Route 171 at Airport Drive near Joplin. (Photo/David Mitchell)



GETTING INPUT – Springfield Project Designer Will Walker (center) and Springfield Highway Designer Christopher Caldwell (right) discuss plans for outer road and intersection improvements along Route 60 with residents at a public meeting in Neosho on May 29. (Photo/David Mitchell)

SW District Employee Recognized For Rescuing Accident Victims

by David Mitchell

When told he was to attend last month’s Southwest District Management Team meeting, District Facilities Operations Supervisor Brad Leonard could’t figure out why – and no one was telling him.

To his surprise, he was given a MoDOT Certificate of Appreciation for rescuing victims of a traffic crash in April. When asked about it, he downplays the whole thing.

“It was a weird deal to drive up on something like that,” he said.

Brad, his wife and three children were returning to Springfield April 13 after finishing his weekend drill with the Army National Guard in Leavenworth, Kan., where he’s an engineer with the 35th Infantry Division.

He was driving south on Route 13 trying to stay ahead of an approaching severe thunderstorm. Shortly after crossing into Greene County, he noticed an overturned SUV lying in a ditch and on fire.

“I wasn’t expecting that,” Brad said. “My focus was trying to get me and my family home.”

He thinks the SUV hydroplaned on the wet pavement and lost control, knocking a stop sign about 25 feet up a hill.

Brad stopped and ran to the vehicle. He and two other passersby pried the door open, pulling a man and woman out of the vehicle. Neither of the two people in the vehicle was seriously hurt, just badly shaken.

“I can’t imagine...,” Brad said. “I’m glad nothing worse happened.”

Once taken to safety, Brad and the others stayed with the victims until emergency responders arrived on scene.

He doesn’t know who those people are or what happened to them after that.

“I just happened to be in the right place at the right time,” Brad said. “I did what I hope somebody would do for me and my family.”



Brad Leonard

SW District Collects More Trash; Three Buildings Win Free BBQ Lunch

by David Mitchell

April’s annual No MOrE Trash Bash! is a success in the Southwest District. According to the final numbers, district maintenance crews, Adopt-A-Highway volunteers and roadside prison work-release inmates picked up 25,741 bags of trash this year – more than 3,000 bags over last year’s District total.

“We challenged our maintenance buildings to choose a couple of days in April to pick-up trash in advance of us mowing,” District Maintenance Engineer Michael Middleton said.

There was a little friendly competition within the Maintenance Department, too. The three maintenance buildings picking up the most trash won a BBQ lunch, cooked by and paid for out of the pockets of Assistant District Maintenance Engineers Bob Becker and Shannon Kellner, District Roadside Manager Mike McCormick, District Office Maintenance Superintendent Tim Bundgard and Michael Middleton.

This year’s winners were Bolivar, Neosho and Stockton.

The Trash Bash! was more than just a highway beautification project. It also will help MoDOT save money.

“Education is key to preventing littering,” said Roadside Management Specialist Stacy Armstrong, “and will help reduce the \$5 million to \$6 million MoDOT spends on litter removal.”

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Southeast District

Southeast Coalition Sponsors Heartland's Best

The Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety recently joined KFVS12 and various sponsors to honor Southeast Missouri's high school valedictorians. Assistant District Engineer Matt Seiler attended the Heartland's Best banquet held May 31 on behalf of the Coalition and saw several familiar faces!

Resident Engineer Lindell Huskey, Senior Construction Inspector Allen Friedrich and Senior Construction Inspector Tim Cox were in attendance and proudly watched as their children, Allison Huskey, Joshua Friedrich and Kaitlin Cox, respectively, were honored.

Allison represented Poplar Bluff High School, Poplar Bluff, Mo. Joshua represented Eagle Ridge Christian School, Cape Girardeau, Mo. Kaitlin represented Arcadia Valley High School, Ironton, Mo.



(l to r) Assistant District Engineer Matt Seiler congratulates graduates Joshua Friedrich, Allison Huskey and Kaitlin Cox.

The Heartland's Best commercial featuring these recent graduates will begin to air June 9. Look for it on KFVS12!

Employee Recognition Week Photos

Southeast District employees dressed a bit differently May 26-30 as they helped celebrate Missouri's State Employee Recognition Week. Events included Tailgate Tuesday, What Not to Wear Wednesday, Throwback Thursday and Flip-Flop Friday!

View the complete photo gallery at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/modot_se/sets/72157644599397440.



What Not to Wear Wednesday



Throwback Thursday

Check Out the New Coalition PSA



Distracted driving is scary, and so is the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety’s latest public service announcement. Click on the image to the left or visit <http://youtu.be/m9H9IhQZF4M>.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

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